

Minutes of the Council on Aging

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 11:00 a.m. Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 11:05

Present were: Bruce Bernstein, Chairman, Chet Delaney, Helen Krancer, Carolyn Palmucci, Eve Goldberg, Peg Muskrat, Administrative Assistant

During the chat/reflection time Peg mentioned that Ruth Silberman is celebrating her 100 year birthday. She will be honored at the Town Birthday celebration on Aug. 24. This event will be held at April Hill. Peg will deliver flowers and a card to Ruth on her birthday.

Susan Bachelder approved a talk on the history of April Hill by Bob and Bill Warner (if they are willing to present).

The minutes of the June 19th meeting were approved with a correction to include "Liz Keene of Indian Line Farm" as additional information to the June luncheon recap.

Chet wished to clarify that he would not be hosting a meeting at his home to flesh out the definition of "Villages". This concept continues to remain vague. Further conversations may continue as the idea takes on a more concrete shape.

Carolyn asked to understand the mission statement of the Egremont COA. It was explained that there is some overlap between Age Friendly Berkshires, Elder Services, and Egremont Housing.

Peg presented the updated 2019-2020 Calendar. A final list of monthly events should be set by the August 21st COA meeting.

Jason LaForest, new Police Chief, met with COA Board. He plans to make sure that support for "Be Seen, Be Safe", the "Good Morning Senior" program and promotion of awareness of scams continues. He plans to attend the monthly safety "Safety for Seniors" meetings at the GB Senior Center sponsored by Triad, and Berkshire County DA's Office. Chief LaForest was very receptive to the Board's overall concern with regard to pedestrian safety as well as biking safety. He made his email and cell phone available to the Board and welcomes all concerns.

Peg will remind people in the next newsletter that computers and internet service are available at the Egremont Free Library.

A discussion with regards to local caregiver lists and available senior living options revealed a variety of ways to collect information. The GB Senior Center hosts events

throughout the year that attracts seniors. The opportunity to either host local senior living representatives at these events in order to answer questions or disseminate information, etc. has proven to be helpful. Also, Marj Wexler maintains a list of caregivers on the Egremont Neighbors site. There was a hope on the part of the Board to do more in this area. Helen suggested that brochures be made available at the monthly lunches and breakfasts. Bruce would like the COA to work on developing a list of caregivers as well.

Peg is following through on leads to hire someone for a fall exercise class. The venue suggested is the North Egremont Fire Station. There would not be a rental fee charged for the use of this building. Bruce also suggested that we look into the Barn as a possible venue.

Bruce asked for a discussion regarding Egremont COA Board leadership be put on the next agenda.

Next meeting is August 21st at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Eve Goldberg